

CHICAGO'S VETERAN GUESTS.

Preparations Rapidly Nearing Completion, and a Royal Welcome to the Grand Army and Allied Orders is Assured.

CHICAGO, Aug. 14, 1900. Practically every detail of the arrangements for the coming Encampment is now complete, and the Executive Committee and the different auxiliary committees are awaiting the arrival of the coming legions to welcome them as they have never been received before. The parade, with the positions of the various posts, the line of march and the decorations have all been arranged. Veterans who have attended the Encampment since the organization of the Grand Army of the Republic are of the opinion that the Chicago Reunion will be the greatest in history. It will be election year, and the dates of the two great parties will waive all civic and economic feelings that they may entertain toward one another and meet in common worship of the grand old flag and of a reunited country.

Before it is too late take the opportunity to correct an error that crept into one of my previous letters regarding accommodations. It was stated that the Board of Education of Chicago had agreed to allow the use of school houses for the accommodation of the veterans and their families, and that board and lodging would be furnished without cost. This is a mistake. The schools will be turned over to the Department of the Grand Army, and charge will be made for lodgings, but there will be no meals furnished free.

THE COURT OF HONOR.

Executive Director Harper reports that everything is in magnificent shape for the big affair, and that Chicago will be ready to welcome the veterans and their families and their friends who will be here at that time. He still thinks that more than a million people will come. When it was known that the Encampment last year, the figure was not a mere guess. It was the result of actual count of tickets sold for the Encampment. Based on this estimate Chicago ought to entertain more than a million. The work of the various committees of the Encampment is well in hand. The Department of the Grand Army has already been made for the various features. Actual outdoor work on the Court of Honor, Michigan avenue from Jackson to Dearborn, has begun, and carpenters are erecting the Grand Army Arch. This is located at the north side of Van Ness street, and the work of the arch was completed last week. The ornamental work will be completed Aug. 20. The electric wiring will be completed Aug. 20. The Court of Honor, with the great arches at either end, will consist of 132 Corinthian columns, 25 feet in height.

Orders have been received from Washington, detailing Battery D, 6th Art., for service during the Encampment. Battery D is stationed at Fort Sheridan, and was secured through the efforts of Gen. Wheeler. It will fire the President's salute and sunrise guns throughout the week. The exterior and interior of the new Coliseum are undergoing a daily transformation. Hundreds of workmen are rushing the big building to completion, and there is a great hurry to get the completion in time for the grand military and war song concerts scheduled for Saturday night, Aug. 25, which President McKinley and other distinguished guests will probably attend. The United States Band will be resident in red, white and blue uniforms. Prof. Katzenberger is rehearsing his chorus of 1,000 voices in sections of 100 each, and the city. The opening night of these concerts will probably assemble one of the largest crowds ever known to have been under one roof in Chicago. Special boxes will be provided in the building for the Presidential party.

REUNIONS.

Interest increases as to the possibility of meeting old army chums at the National Encampment, and a large number of regiments, battalions and companies have been assigned Reunion quarters by J. C. Bonnell, Chairman of Campfires and Reunions. The following have been assigned:

Army of the Frontier, Association of Mexican Veterans, Berdan's Sharpshooters, Corcoran Legion, 1st, 11th, 15th, 94th Md., 8th Ohio, 18th, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th, 140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, 145th, 146th, 147th, 148th, 149th, 150th, 151st, 152nd, 153rd, 154th, 155th, 156th, 157th, 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